

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05789 301633Z

67

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NASA-02 NSC-05 SS-15 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-02

OC-05 COME-00 BIB-01 AID-05 IO-10 MC-02 /123 W

----- 109933

R 301145Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8404

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5789

DEPT. PASS TO NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA NASA IN

SUBJECT: SOVIET LAUNCH OF ARYABHATTA

REFS: (A) NEW DELHI 5405; (B) NEW DELHI 5464

1. THE CONTROL ROOM FOR LAUNCHING THE INDIAN SATELLITE ARYABHATTA WAS ONLY 200 METERS FROM THE LAUNCH PAD. IT WAS OFF LIMITS TO INDIANS. INDIANS WATCHED THE LAUNCHING FROM ABOUT 8 KM AWAY BUT PHOTOGRAPHY WAS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. PROF. U R RAO, PROJECT MANAGER FOR INDIAN SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE PROJECT (ISSP), DISCLOSED THIS ON ARRIVAL AT NEW DELHI FROM MOSCOW ON APRIL 28, REPORTS THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI).

2. OTHER POINTS MADE BY DR. RAO:

A) THE SOVIETS WILL RELEASE PHOTOGRAPHS AND POSSIBLY A FILM SHOWING ARYABHATTA "SHOOTING INTO THE SKY".

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05789 301633Z

B) MESSAGES BETWEEN THE SRIHARIKOTA AND MOSCOW
COMMAND STATIONS WERE IN CODE.

C) COMMANDS TO THE SATELLITE WILL NOW BE GIVEN
EXCLUSIVELY FROM SRIHARIKOTA. CONSEQUENTLY, THE
VOICE LINK BETWEEN THE MOSCOW AND SRIHARIKOTA STATIONS
HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED AND ALL EXCEPT THREE INDIAN
SCIENTISTS HAVE RETURNED TO INDIA. A TELEX LINK WILL
CONTINUE.

D) THREE YEARS AGO THE SOVIETS DOUBTED THAT INDIA COULD
BUILD THE SATELLITE IN TWO AND A HALF YEARS.

E) THE TELECOMMAND STATION AT MOSCOW WAS SET UP IN JUST
ONE HOUR AFTER LAUNCH.

F) A TRACKING STATION AT BANGALORE WILL SUPPLEMENT THE
SRIHARIKOTA STATION. FRENCH STATIONS ARE ALSO TRACKING
ARYABHATTA.

G) THERMAL AND POWER CONTROLS OF ARYABHATTA WERE
FUNCTIONING WELL AFTER 130 ORBITS. IT IS NOW EXPECTED
TO ORBIT FOR TWO AND HALF YEARS.

H) INDIA WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THE SOLAR CELLS AND TAPE
RECORDER FOR HER NEXT SATELLITE AND TO COMMAND IT
FROM INDIA RIGHT FROM THE START.SAXBE

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